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SCORE POOR CONDITIONS IN 3 RUBBER PLANTS

The control organs of the Ministry of Industry which recently inspected the Pepede, Chavdar, and Zebra rubber plants found that unsatisfactory conditions prevail in these enterprises.

The workshops are dirty and untidy, and the machinery is not properly overhauled. Work tables are of primitive construction and have rough surfaces. The conveyer belts at the Pepede plant are not tightened; they are smeared with glue and covered with dust, which contributes to malfunctioning. Production and manufacturing processes are conducted carelessly, without the necessary control by management and responsible workers. The rolling and glazing shops, like almost all other departments, are dirty and neglected. The machines are not properly used, and supervisors are indifferent and "easy-going." The water installations are in disrepair; semifinished articles and rubber compositions are laid directly on the dirty floor. Machines not in current use are neglected and abandoned without the necessary care. Cylinders to be overhauled in the Zebra plant are left without attention and are not even cleaned.

The chemical departments of the plants, especially at the Chavdar enterprises, are in the same chaotic condition: materials are stored pell-mell and there is a lack of scales. The spreading machines, likewise, are dirty and neglected, and the motors are not fitted in the shops; the machines are not properly grounded, and they lack the metallic brushes for leading off static electricity to prevent fires. The textile fabrics used for the spreading machines, and the calenders are also piled on the dirty floors; making large quantities of finished and semifinished articles even more defective.

The storehouses and shipping rooms are also in very poor condition. Since there are no shelves, goods are piled on the floor and crumpled. Shoes are wrapped ten pairs to a package tied with string; such primitive packing methods produce deformation. At the Chavdar plant, the sorting and packing of finished goods are performed on the floor, ruining the merchandise.

The control personnel is not checking the technical standards of production, and a large number of defective articles are released for sale. The directors of the three enterprises pay little or no attention to work -

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organization, production discipline, and mechanization, or to safety and fire protection. At the Chavdar plant, the special machines for cutting soles are not being used and the work is done by hand. The special equipment for rolling and glazing has not been installed; the same is true of the device for the immediate stoppage of operations in case of accident. Transmissions, motors, and gear wheels are not protected. Sanitary conditions are poor, and nothing is done to reduce the harmful effect of benzene fumes. The directors permit workers to eat their meals in the workrooms, which also has a bad effect on hygiene. The yards are piled with waste, and combustible materials are kept near the production rooms. Glue mixers and containers are left in the workshops, which are not regularly scrubbed but are spread with sawdust, and have no proper ventilation. The directors show the utmost indifference to all these shortcomings.

The Ministry of Industry has now issued an order to the directors of the three plants to take immediate measures for the elimination of these shortcomings. Unfortunately, there are more enterprises throughout the country where such deficiencies are tolerated; their managements should take note of the ministry's action and correct the undesirable conditions in their plants.

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